Mental Ability - 1931

HOWARD U. PROF. MAKES FRESHMAN MENTALITY REPORT

203 Freshmen Of Howard Univ. Given Mental Test At Beginning Of Term

Mental health of Negro college freshmen is approximately normal, according to a report on Educational Research and Statistics by Dr. F. H. Sumner, head of the department of psychology of Howard University, published in the current issue of School and Society.

The test was given to 203 freshmen of Howard Dniversity at the beginning of the school year according to the Mental Hygiene Inventory devised by S. Daniel House The investigation revealed that the average Negro freshman is slightly below normal during childhood, and slightly above normal in maturity. The average shows that "while male and female students are approximately normal in mental health, the male Negro college freshman is slightly less normal than the female in childhood, and more noticeably supernormal in maturity."

Psychological Bulletin for April contains Dr. Sumner's review of "Child Psychology" by Dr. Margaret Wooster Curti.

Dr. Sumner is one of the two Americans invited to participate on the program of the First International Congress of Religious Psychology, to be held at the University of Vienna, May 23-30. The subject of his address will be "The Mental Hygiene of Religion."

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Not so much slow centuries of development of a civilization like the white man's as present opportunity to achieve in our civilization whatever his actual mentality permits is the American Negro's problem. So at least some critic of Rev. Mr. Cantwell's interesting address on the Negro before the local Educational Club might like to observe. It appears to be a fact that intelligence tests place the Negro somewhat below the white man in percentages. So, at all events, it was generalized from comparative tests of a few years ago at Clark university. The colored man's inferiority, however, was shown by the statistics not to be anything like as great as the average southern white with his race phobia would want to presuppose. What the figures indicated was that per thousand of population you would find fewer high mentalities among Negroes than among whites; rather more mentalities due under usual environmental conditions to be retarded at or before age 13. If then psychology has any standing as an exact science with quantitative methods and conclusions the sole problem of the Negro is to give him as good a chance as the white man has and let him go as far as he can and will go. He at present has to fight pretty hard in our American "democracy" for this elemental privilege of the human being, and he still does not everywhere get it.

INTELLIGENCE OF NEGROES TESTED NORTH AND SOUTH

Negro Boys in New York Equal the Intelligence of the White Boys

In the December Opportunity, Journal of Negro Life, Dr. Otto Klineberg of the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University says: "A considerable quantity of evidence has been collected showing the marked superiority of northern over southern Negroes in the ability to solve the problems presented by the intelligence tests. The results obtained by the Army psychologists during the war are well known; the Negro recruits from the North were markedly superior, and those from Ohio, Illinois and New York made a better showing than the whites in six of the southern states. The later studies of Negro children in different parts of the country gave the same result; on the average there is a substantial difference (about ten points in the Intelligence Quotient) in favor of northern and western over southern Negro children.

WHITE SCIENTIST SAYS RACE DOES NOT DETERMINE BRAINS

NEW YORK, (ANP)—Dr. Otto Klineberg of the department of anthropology, Columbia university says: 'A considerable quantity of evidence has been collected showing the marked superiority of northern over southern Negroes in the ability to solve the problems presented by the intelligence tests. The results obtained by the army psychologists during the war are well known; the Negro recruits from the north were markedly superior, and those from Ohio, Illinois and New York made a better showing than the whites in six of the southern states. The later studies of Negro children in different parts of the country gave the same result; on the average there is a substantial difference (about ten points in the intelligence quotient) in favor of northern and western over southern Negro children.

"Most striking of all, however, are the results reported by Peterson and Lanier in their interesting and important book, 'Studies in the Comparative Abilities of Whites and Negroes.' They gave a number of psychological tests to twelve year old white and Negro boys in Nashville, Chicago and New York. They found a marked superiority of whites over Negroes in Nashville, some superiority in Chicago, and no superiority whatever in New York. Not only are New York Negro boys far ahead of the Nashville Negroes; they are actually the equals of the New York whites.

"What of Negro 'intelligence,' as far as it can be studied by means of tests? 'It is true that in general white children do better on the tests than Negroes. It is also true, however, that Negroes in the north do much better than those in the south, and tend on the whole to approach very closely the standing of the whites. Since there is no evidence for a selective migration of the more intelligent Negroes northward, this result must be due to the superior northern environment. The difference between white and Negro children in intelligence test scores tends to disappear as the environments of the two groups approach equality."